

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. The present amendment adds new Claims 16-19.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schreiber. Additionally, Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, and 15 were identified as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, and 15 contain allowable subject matter. However, those claims are presently maintained in dependent form because Applicant believes itself entitled to the scope of protection afforded by independent Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13.

An important feature of the present invention is that an output terminal of the input circuit is dependent upon either the voltage input or the current input to the input circuit, without any switching between the voltage input or the current input. This feature is recited in each of independent Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13. The Schreiber reference, on the other hand, is directed to a divider network for use with a digital multimeter. Column 1, lines 6-9. As shown in Figure 2, the device of Schreiber includes a voltage input 52, a current input 74, and a common input 66. However, looking at Figure 3, it is readily apparent that the multimeter of Schreiber switches between the voltage input and the resistor current input, using switches S1-S10, for example. Figure 4 even provides a table showing how the different switches are used for various multimeter functions. Still further, Schreiber describes the multiplexer 50, which receives various inputs, as a "conventional selection circuit." Column 4, lines 53-56. Thus, the Schreiber multimeter is quite different from the invention of Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13, which require that the output voltage is dependent upon either the voltage input or the current

input "without switching therebetween." Accordingly, Schreiber is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the invention of Claim 1.

Additionally, Claims 1 and 9 are directed to an analog input module for a controller. The multimeter of Schreiber is not a controller, and therefore, Claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Schreiber for the additional reason that Schreiber does not teach or suggest an analog input module for a controller, as defined by Claims 1 and 9.

New Claims 16-19 are supported by Figure 3 of the present invention and are broadened versions of allowed Claims 2, 7, 10, and 14. Schreiber is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the arrangement of resistors and inputs defined by Claims 16-19.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 and all claims dependent therefrom patentably distinguish over the Schreiber reference. Accordingly, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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